Monsieur
l'Abbé Jean DUCAT

prêtre du diocèse de Tournai
vicaire à la Paroisse Saint Jean-Baptiste de Gosselies
professeur honoraire aux Athénée et Lycée de Gosselies
chapelain du sanctuaire du Planois

Né à Hanzinelle le 12 octobre 1922
et décédé à Biesme le 25 décembre 2016

Vous en font part dans l'espérance:

Thorgal, son petit chien;

Monseigneur Guy HARPIGNY, Evêque de Tournai;

Monseigneur Rémy VANCOTTEM, Evêque de Namur;

Monseigneur Pierre WARIN, Evêque auxiliaire de Namur;

Monsieur l'Abbé Martin ICHOKU,

Lydie, Simon, Diane, Sergio, André, Christine, David, Hélène, Sabine, Céline, Nicolas, Adeline, Perrine, Marie, Sébastien, Elise, Aurélie, Gilles,
ses neveux, nièces, petits-neveux, petites-nièces;

Nathan (son rayon de soleil du mercredi), Ophélia, Oscar, Martin, Hermance, Séraphin,
Ses arrière-petits-neveux et arrière-petites-nièces;

Famille RODELET - D'HAEYER,
ses amis sincères et attentifs;

Soeur Mariette(†), Marie-Bernadette(†), Marie-Antoinette, Ginette, Marie Reine(†), Bernadette(†),
ses soeurs;

Louis (†), Antoine (†),
ses frères;

La belle communauté de la chapelle du Planois,

Cannelle, Dana, Violine(†), Thor, Lyloup, Odin, Bacchus,
ses amis qu'il attendait avec joie chaque jour;

Ses amis et cousins d'Amérique,

Monsieur l'Abbé Ducat repose à la Chapelle du Planois
où les visites seront reçues, mardi et mercredi de 15 à 18 heures.

L'Eucharistie des funérailles aura lieu, le 29 décembre 2016 à 10h30 en l'église Saint Martin de Biesme,
elle sera suivie de l'inhumation dans le caveau de la famille au cimetière de Biesme.

Le jour des funérailles réunion à l'église de Biesme.

Le présent avis tient lieu de faire part.

P.F. et Funérarium Pascal Michaux

Remembering Father Jean Ducat 1922-2017

By Micheline Gaudette

The obituary published by the Tournai diocese was surprising in a way because it failed to mention Father Ducat's accomplishments in investigating and reporting the history of Belgian emigration to the United States and their subsequent settlements in various states. Father Ducat's work in that area is most valuable for the history of Belgium and of the United States, it enriches all of us and will continue to enrich the generations to come. Even the more detailed obituary omits that important part of his life. (http://www.defunt.be/index.php?pageid=130&action=details&id=31320) but does mention his American friends and cousins.

Father Ducat was a simple man with a complicated brilliant mind always in motion. He could have chosen any profession and be successful at it. Instead he became a parish priest and later a professor of Catholic doctrine at the Gosselies State College. He loved interacting with people, and people of all walks of life were at ease with him.

I have corresponded with Father Ducat since 1983, when he wrote to The Belgian Researchers as published in Belgian Laces, August 1983, 3/27 page 17: "*Mr. Jean Ducat, 4 Belle-Vue, 5670, Biesme, Belgium is the president of the Archeo-Paleonto-Historique de Charleroi and is offering his help to those who like him have ancestors from the Brabant region who settled in Charleroi. Some of them as you know emigrated to the US. Mr. Ducat is also a member of the Wallonie -Wisconsin Association and came to Wisconsin with that group this Summer.*"

Father Ducat was a prolific writer. He shunned computers preferring to write long letters, leaving no blank spaces on the pages.

This was the start of our frienship with Father Ducat. Indeed, he was most generous with his help and on the other hand was never shy about requesting help when needed. His name appears many times in Belgian Laces. Something else, if one of our members was going to Belgium, that person would be well received and directed. As was the case with **Charlotte Rogers**, he was at the train station waiting for her arrival and made sure she met with long lost relatives. It was a trip she never forgot.

I met Father Ducat three times in the US and twice in Belgium. Actually he came multiple times to the US, especially to Wisconsin, to visit Belgian settlements where he would establish Belgian-American Heritage Societies when possible. He was also on a quest, trying to find where his ancestor **Antoine Ducat** settled.

Father Ducat was always full of surprises, never a dull moment with him, he was jovial, fun to be with. He was a "character" marching at the beat of his own drum. He loved, and was used to, being in charge and sometimes had to be reminded that *The Belgian Researchers* was for **ALL** Belgians and not just for those from the Brabant and Namur regions.

I remember when he was going to Wisconsin for the dedication of the "*Aux Premiers Belges*" monument, The Belgian Researchers offered him a nice briefcase to replace his old falling-apart one… Well… He thanked us but never used the new briefcase…

Another little anecdote, planning for a one day visit to Boston with one of his neighbors, Father Ducat asked we search for an inexpensive hotel room. Well, an inexpensive hotel room in Boston during a special event is unheard of. At the last minute, we found one in a clean, safe and friendly hotel. I was so proud of myself, but the little remarks made by Father Ducat's neighbor (he didn't travel alone) made me realize we had booked a room in a hotel for gay people. Father Ducat was not amused and called on his friend to cease his remarks. When 1 or 2 years later he came to our house for a short visit with three friends, he didn't ask us to make hotel reservations…

I wonder why…